New Music Concerts presents

La Revue Burlesque

with the
Basel Percussion Trio
of Switzerland

and Canadian pianist
Daniel Cholette

Sunday April 19, 1998 / 8:00 pm

Glenn Gould Studio / Canadian Broadcasting Centre

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The **Basel Percussion Trio** of Switzerland was founded in 1984 and consists of three musicians who are dedicated to discovering and playing all imaginable music for percussion. The ensemble employs a wide variety of non-European instruments, electronics, and vocal effects for their 1998 North American tour of **La Revue Burlesque** — a unique evening of music theatre that has been shaped and focused by an international celebrity in the field of humour: **Dmitri the Clown**. Small clown scenes link the individual pieces, and also provide a means of integrating scene changes into the ongoing scenario. The result is a continuous but varied programme which bears the unmistakable thumb-print of Dmitri.

Gerhard Huber, **Thomas Waldner** and **Siegfried Kutterer** studied percussion with Siegfried Schmid at the Music Academy in Basel. Gerhard and Thomas work there as teachers, while Siegfried is the principal percussionist of the Basel Symphony Orchestra. Canadian pianist **Daniel Cholette** studied at the Québec Conservatory of Music and with Karl Engel at the High School for Music in Hanover, Germany. In the early 1970s he studied with Jörg Wyttenbach in Basel, where he now works as a freelance pianist and composer.

The program opens with a new work by the Swiss composer **Daniel Weissberg** (b.1954), whose interest in the field of music-theatre is central to much of his output. His **Gaspard** (1995/96) for percussion and piano consists of a set of three interconnecting Punch and Judy Shows. Three figures appear (mostly in the form of specially prepared percussion instruments), one in each of the little theatres; sometimes the percussionists themselves appear. The theatrical aspect of Weissberg's other work on the program, his **Charakterstück** (1984) for solo marimba, involves the consternation of three musicians attempting to perform on one instrument.

Though not everything in the **Basel Percussion Trio**'s repertoire is theatrical by nature, many of the works that have been written for them over the years have involved an appreciation of the distinct personalities of the members of the group. Composer **Dennis Kuhn**, born in 1957 in Olten, Switzerland, first met the Trio as a percussion student at the Music Academy in Basel. His **Sigi–Geri–Thomi** (1995), entitled after the nicknames of the Trio's members, was composed in honour of the eighth anniversary of the ensemble. The English composer **Gwyn Pritchard**, born in Yorkshire, England in 1948, casts the triumvirate in a rather different light in **Das Mysterium der heiligen Dreifaltigkeit** (1995), in which Sigi is cast as the Father, Thomi the Son, and Geri the Holy Ghost in a modern re-interpretation of *The Mystery of the Holy Trinity.*

The members of the troupe customarily include their own compositions in their programs. Percussionist **Siegfried Kutterer** lived for a time in India, where he studied the performance and theory of Southern Indian music. His work, **Fix Gyx** (1996), is based on the associations and contradictions between the Indian system of musical phonetics (the traditional way of representing rhythms and of teaching music in India), and our own basic concepts of western notation and performance. In **Daniel Cholette**'s parody of the "Solo Concerto", **Piano à tre** (1996), the three percussionists perform at the piano while the pianist performs a solo on an air pump. The Trio brings the evening to an ebullient close with a selection by one of the most famous xylophone virtuosi in the American 'Vaudeville' period of the so-called 'Roaring Twenties', **G. Hamilton Green**'s amusing but extremely difficult **Log Cabin Blues** (1924).

The concert begins at **8:00 pm** on **Sunday April 19, 1998**, in the **Glenn Gould Studio** of the **Canadian Broadcasting Centre** at 250 Front Street West. **NMC** artist director **Robert Aitken** will host a **pre-concert discussion** with the members of the ensemble in the theatre lobby at **7:15**. Tickets for the concert are priced at $20 (adult) and $10 (students and seniors).
For **reservations** please call the Glenn Gould Studio box office at (416) **205-5555.**

1997 1998 season
new music concerts

Sunday September 28, 1997, The Gallery School, AGO
Introduction 2:15pm, Concert 3:00pm
Guitar Evolutions/The Body Electric

Sunday November 2, 1997, The Glenn Gould Studio, CBC
Introduction 7:15pm, Concert 8:00pm
Voix/Made in Canada Festival

Sunday December 7, 1997, du Maurier Theatre
Introduction 7:15pm, Concert 8:00pm
Spirit of Hong Kong /
Canada's Year of Asia Pacific

Sunday April 5, 1998, The Glenn Gould Studio, CBC
Introduction 7:15pm, Concert 8:00pm,
An Elliott Carter Jubilee

Sunday April 19, 1998, The Glenn Gould Studio, CBC
Introduction 7:15pm, Concert 8:00
La Revue Burlesque

Wednesday May 20, 1998, George Weston Recital Hall
Introduction 7:15pm, Concert 8:00pm
Lost Composers III
with readings by Anne Michaels
author of the award-winning novel,
"Fugitive Pieces"

For further information, ticket prices, subscriptions or a seasons brochure call New Music Concerts 416 961 9594

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